

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. -20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:
  - at least one ionomer comprising at least one  $\alpha$ -olefin and at least one  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein at least a portion of the acid groups are neutralized with at least one metal atom having a flexural modulus of about 60,000 psi or greater, and
  - at least one oxa ester, oxa acid, or a combination thereof.
22. (Currently Amended) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the ionomer comprises about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight of the at least one  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid acrylic or methacrylic acid.
23. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the golf ball has an Atti compression of at least 50 and a coefficient of restitution of at least 0.7.
24. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the layer has a hardness of at least about 15 Shore A, a flexural modulus of at least about 500 psi, and a specific gravity of at least about 0.7.
25. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the layer further comprises at least one density adjusting filler.
26. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 25, wherein the density adjusting filler is a metallic powder, a metallic oxide derivative, or a combination thereof.
27. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 26, wherein the density adjusting filler comprises titanium, tungsten, tin, copper, or a combination thereof.

28. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the golf ball comprises a cover formed of a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, a urethane ionomer, a urethane epoxy, or a combination thereof.
29. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the cover is formed of a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.
30. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 29, wherein the cover has a hardness of about 40 Shore D to about 70 Shore D and a flexural modulus of about 10,000 psi to about 100,000 psi.
31. (Currently Amended) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:  
at least one acid-containing copolymer ionomer component comprising E/X/Y copolymers, wherein E is ethylene, X is a softening comonomer, and Y is acrylic or methacrylic acid, and wherein Y is present in an amount from about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight of the component; and  
at least one oxa ester, ~~oxa acid, or a combination thereof.~~
32. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein Y is present in an amount from about 18.5 percent to about 21.5 percent by weight of the component.
33. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein the layer is disposed between a core and a cover.
34. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the layer has a thickness of about 0.02 inches or greater.
35. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the cover comprises a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.
36. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the cover has a hardness of about 40 Shore D to about 70 Shore D and a flexural modulus of about 10,000 psi to about 100,000 psi.

37. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein the layer further comprises at least one density adjusting filler.
38. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the core comprises polybutadiene.
39. (Currently Amended) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:  
at least one ~~saponified ionomer thermoplastic component having a flexural modulus of about 60,000 psi or greater; and~~  
at least one ~~oxa ester, oxa acid, or a combination thereof.~~
40. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the thermoplastic component comprises an acid-containing copolymer ionomer component comprising E/X/Y copolymers, wherein E is ethylene, X is a softening comonomer, and Y is acrylic or methacrylic acid.
41. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 40, wherein Y is present in an amount from about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight of the component.
42. (Canceled) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the thermoplastic component comprises a saponified ionomer.
43. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the layer is disposed between a core and a cover.
44. (Previously Added) The golf ball of claim 43, wherein the cover comprises a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

45. (New) The golf ball of claim 43, wherein the core comprises cis-polybutadiene.

46. (New) The golf ball of claim 43, wherein the layer has a hardness of about 20 Shore D to about 70 Shore D.